



Hoppity's Song



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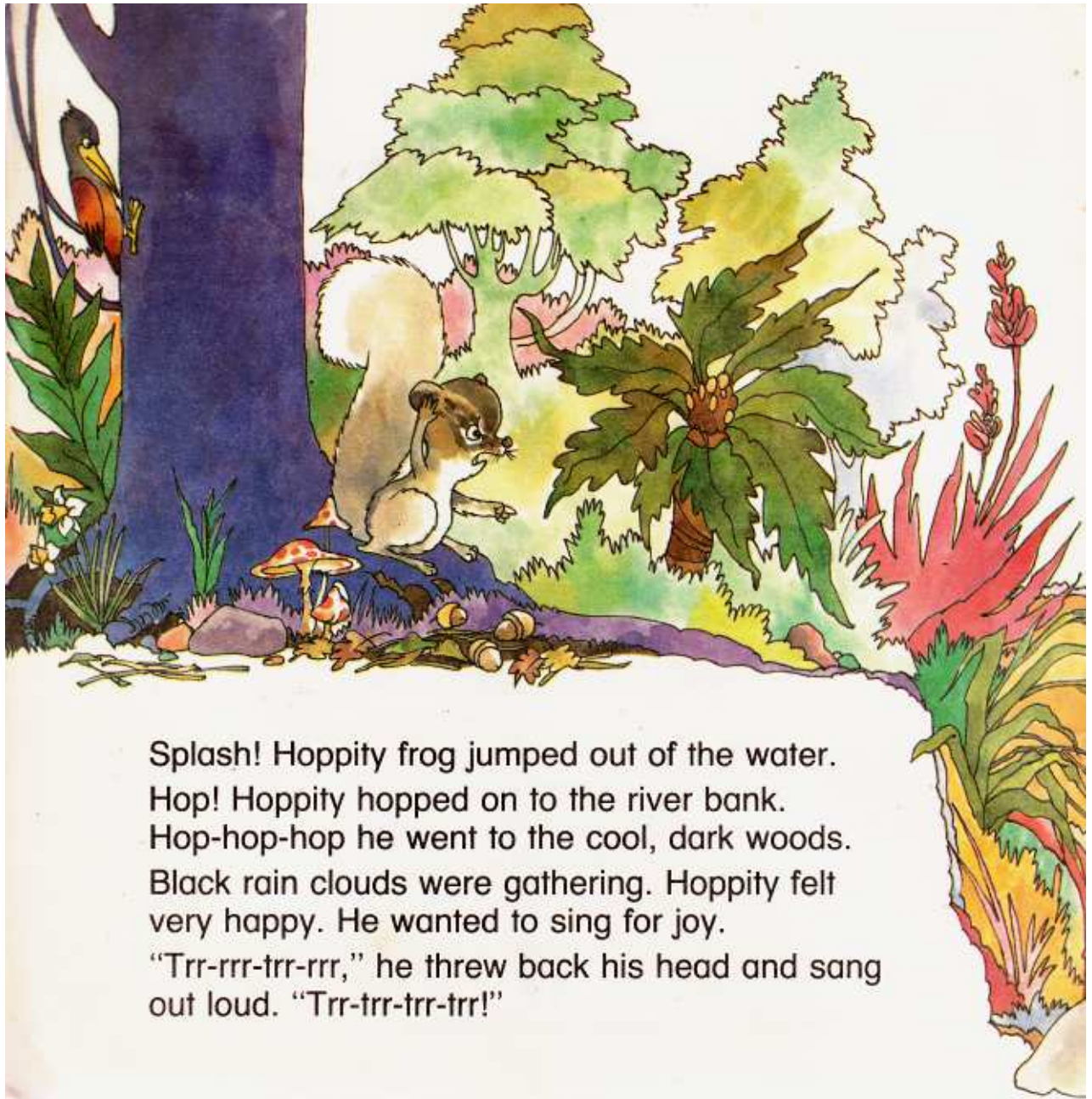


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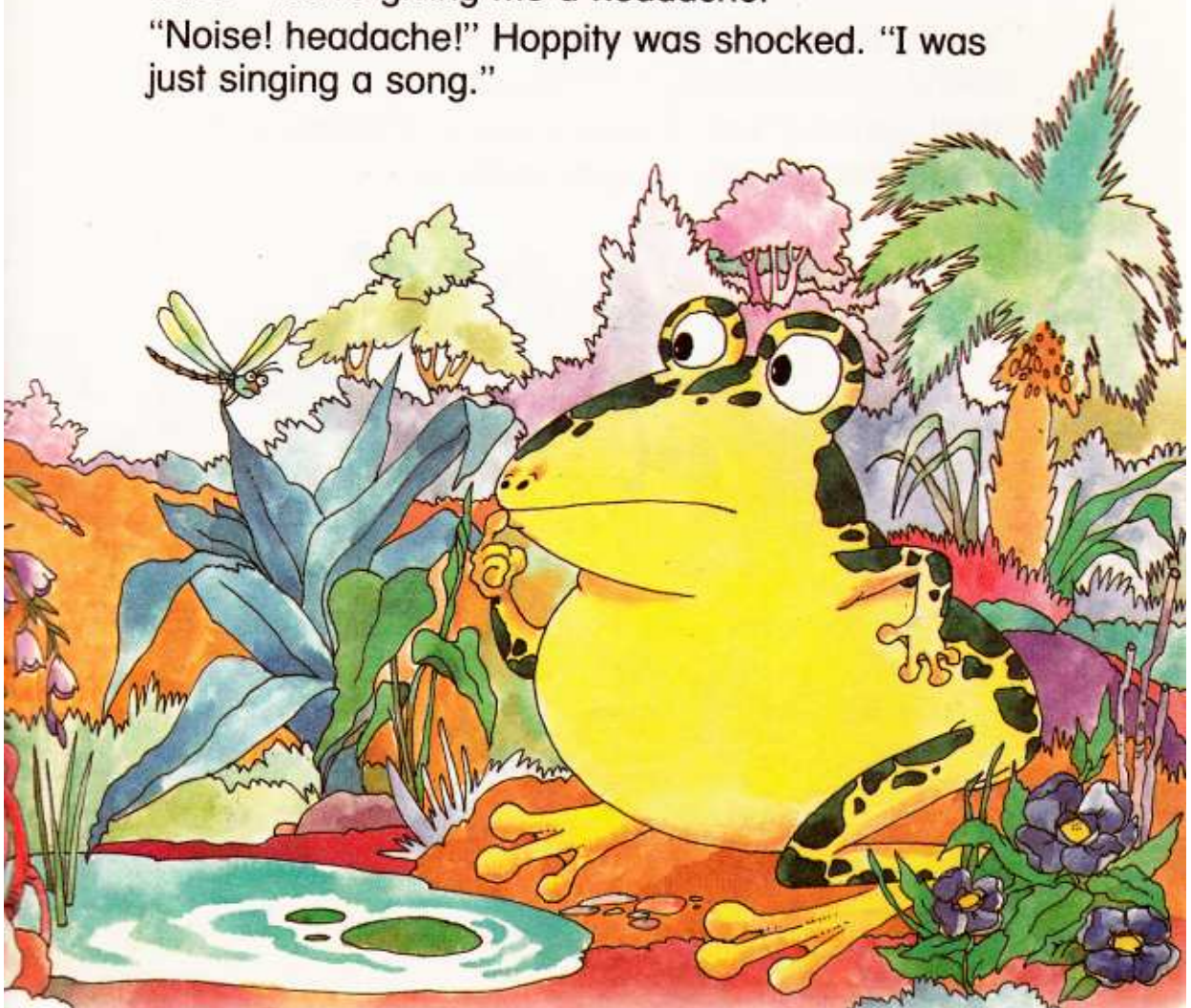


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Splash! Hoppity frog jumped out of the water.
Hop! Hoppity hopped on to the river bank.
Hop-hop-hop he went to the cool, dark woods.
Black rain clouds were gathering. Hoppity felt
very happy. He wanted to sing for joy.
"Trr-rrr-trr-rrr," he threw back his head and sang
out loud. "Trr-trr-trr-trr!"

Nutty squirrel popped his head out of his nest.
"Must you make that horrible, terrible noise?" he
said. "You're giving me a headache."
"Noise! headache!" Hoppity was shocked. "I was
just singing a song."

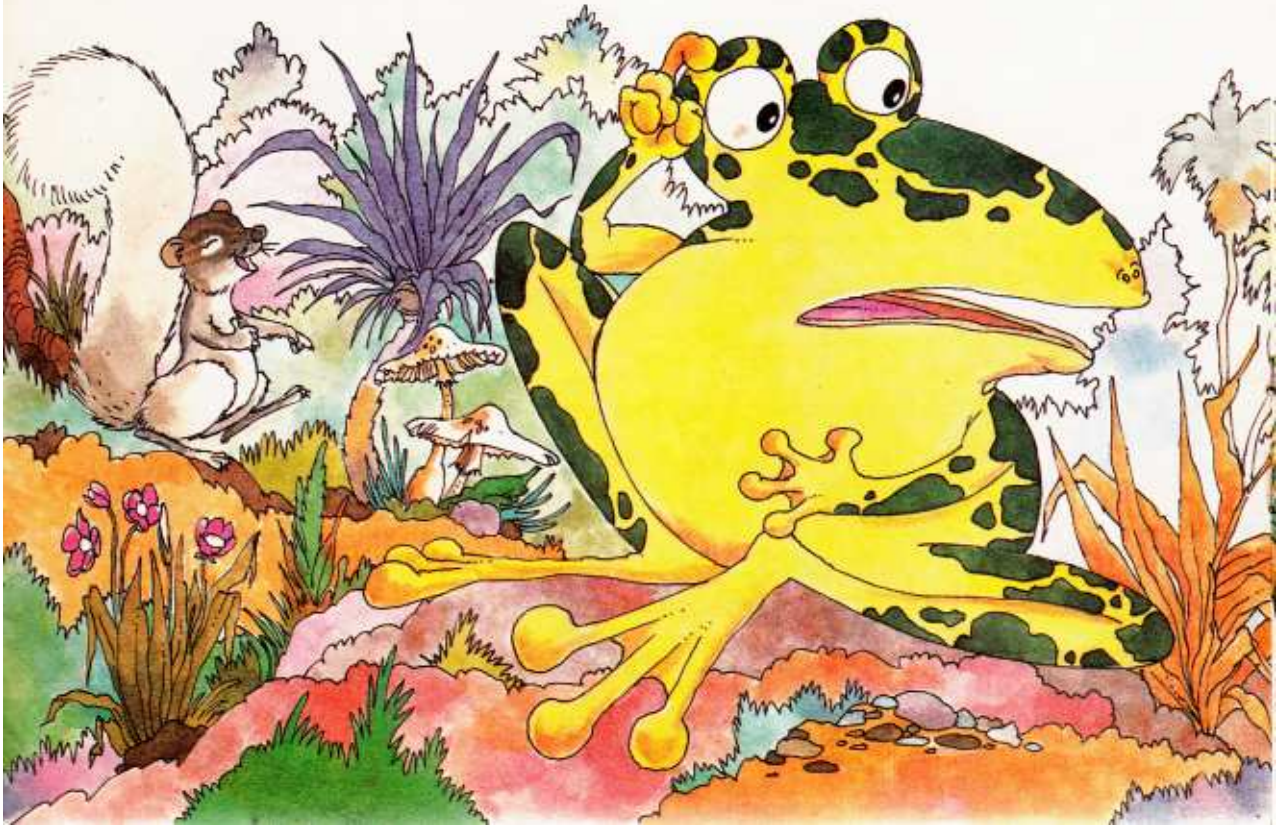


"A song!" Nutty laughed. He rolled over and over on the ground laughing.

Hoppity felt hurt. "What's so funny?" he asked.

"You're funny," Nutty said. "Oh, you're so funny. Calling your croaking a song."

"Well, I think it's a very nice song," Hoppity said. And he hopped off to another place.



"This is a nice place," he thought. "Here I'll sing undisturbed."

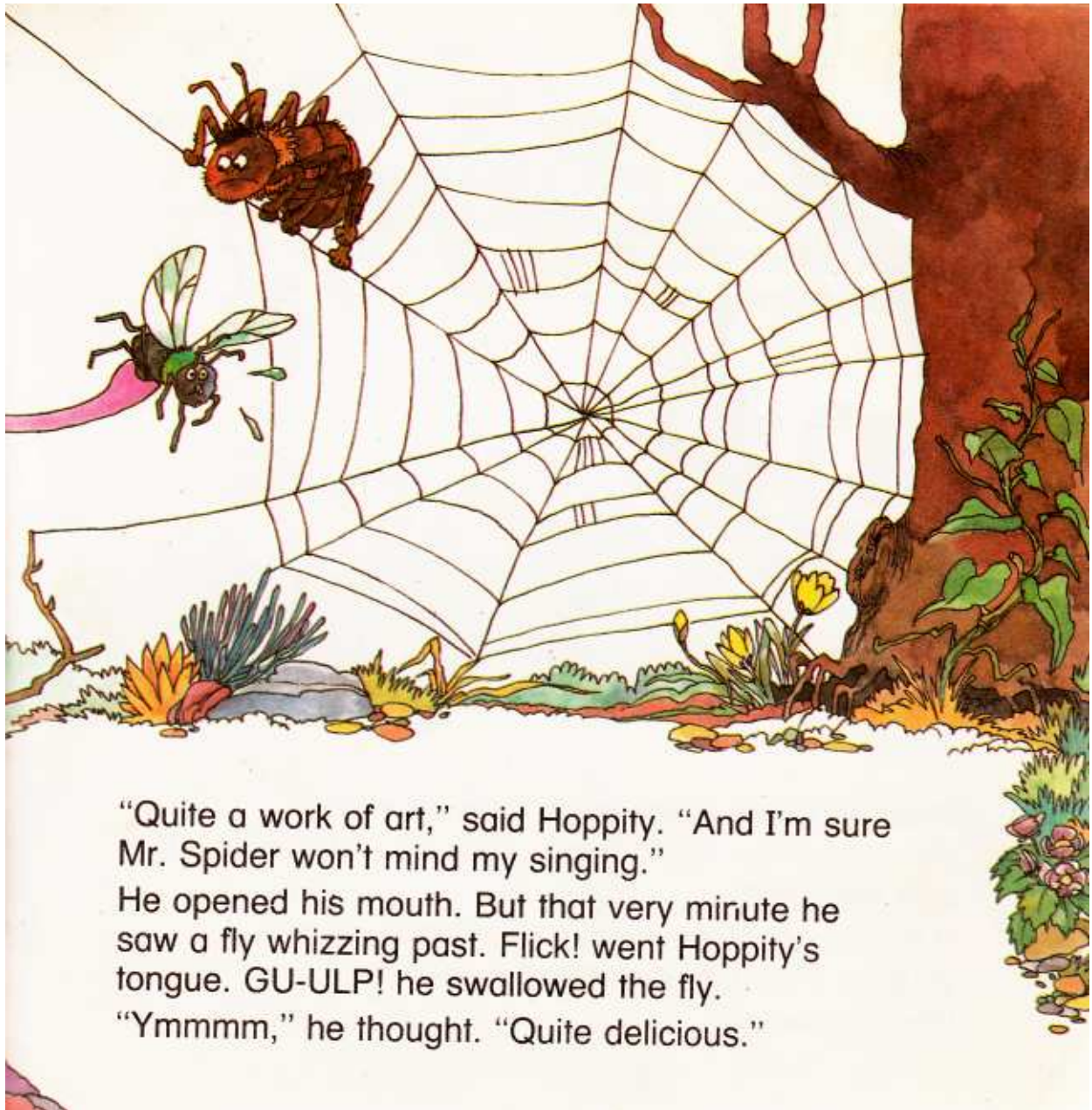
"Trr-rrr-rrr," he began. "Trr-trr-trr!"

A scared little rabbit came scurrying out of its hole. "What's happening?" he cried. "What's the matter, sir?" (He was a very polite little rabbit.) "Is there something stuck in your throat? Can I be of any help?"



"Help, indeed," said Hoppity. He felt quite annoyed. "Something stuck in my throat. Hunh!" He hopped off again. "A fellow can't sing by himself in peace," he said angrily. Under a tree a spider had made a beautiful web. It shook gently in the breeze.

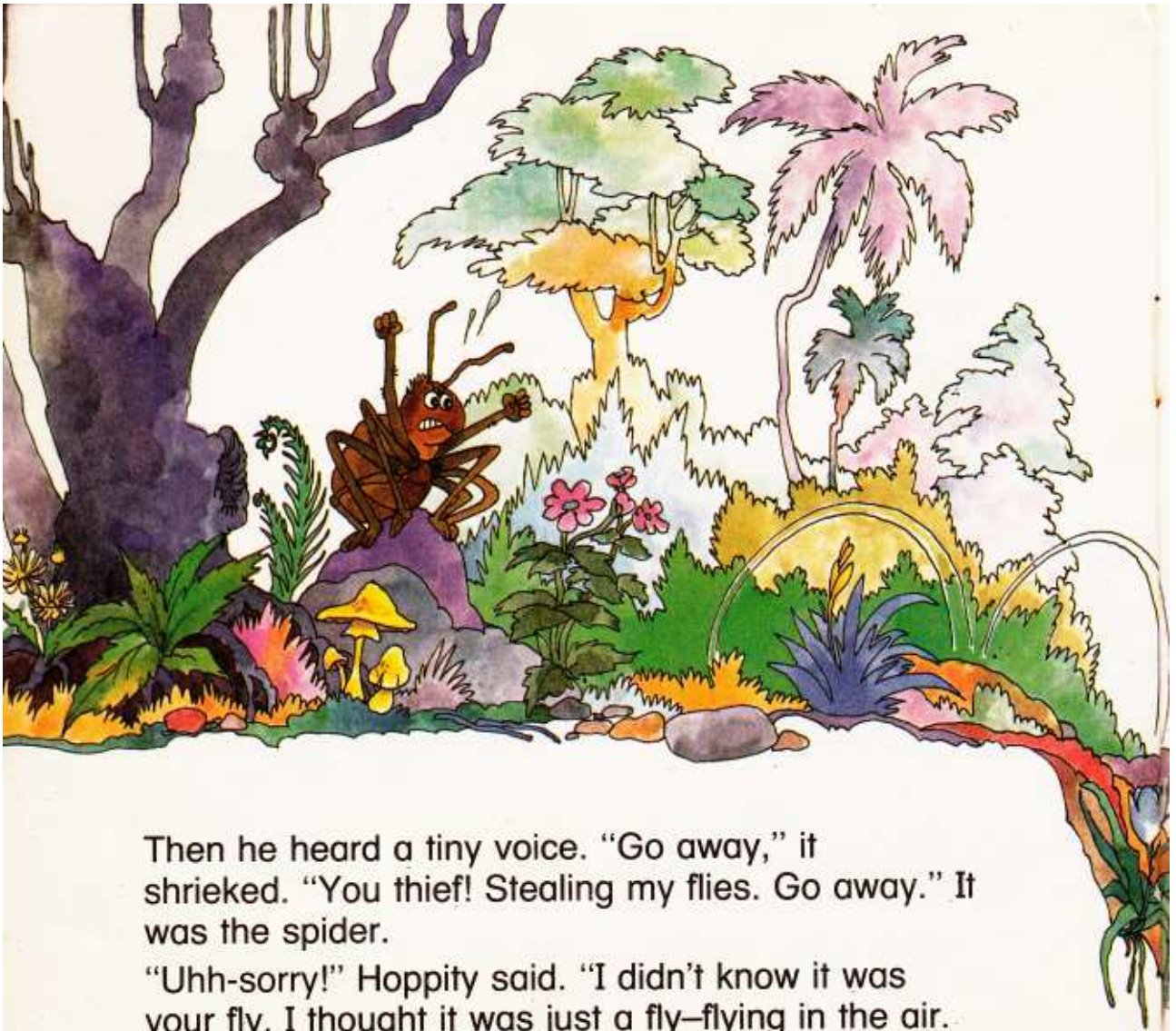




"Quite a work of art," said Hoppity. "And I'm sure Mr. Spider won't mind my singing."

He opened his mouth. But that very minute he saw a fly whizzing past. Flick! went Hoppity's tongue. GU-ULP! he swallowed the fly.

"Ymmmm," he thought. "Quite delicious."



Then he heard a tiny voice. "Go away," it shrieked. "You thief! Stealing my flies. Go away." It was the spider.

"Uhh-sorry!" Hoppity said. "I didn't know it was your fly. I thought it was just a fly—flying in the air. Uh-very sorry!"

Slowly he hopped away. "Where can I find a lonely place?" he thought. "Where no one can stop me from singing." He hopped and hopped till he was quite tired. At last he found a little pond. A pond full of nice round lotus leaves. There was no one around.

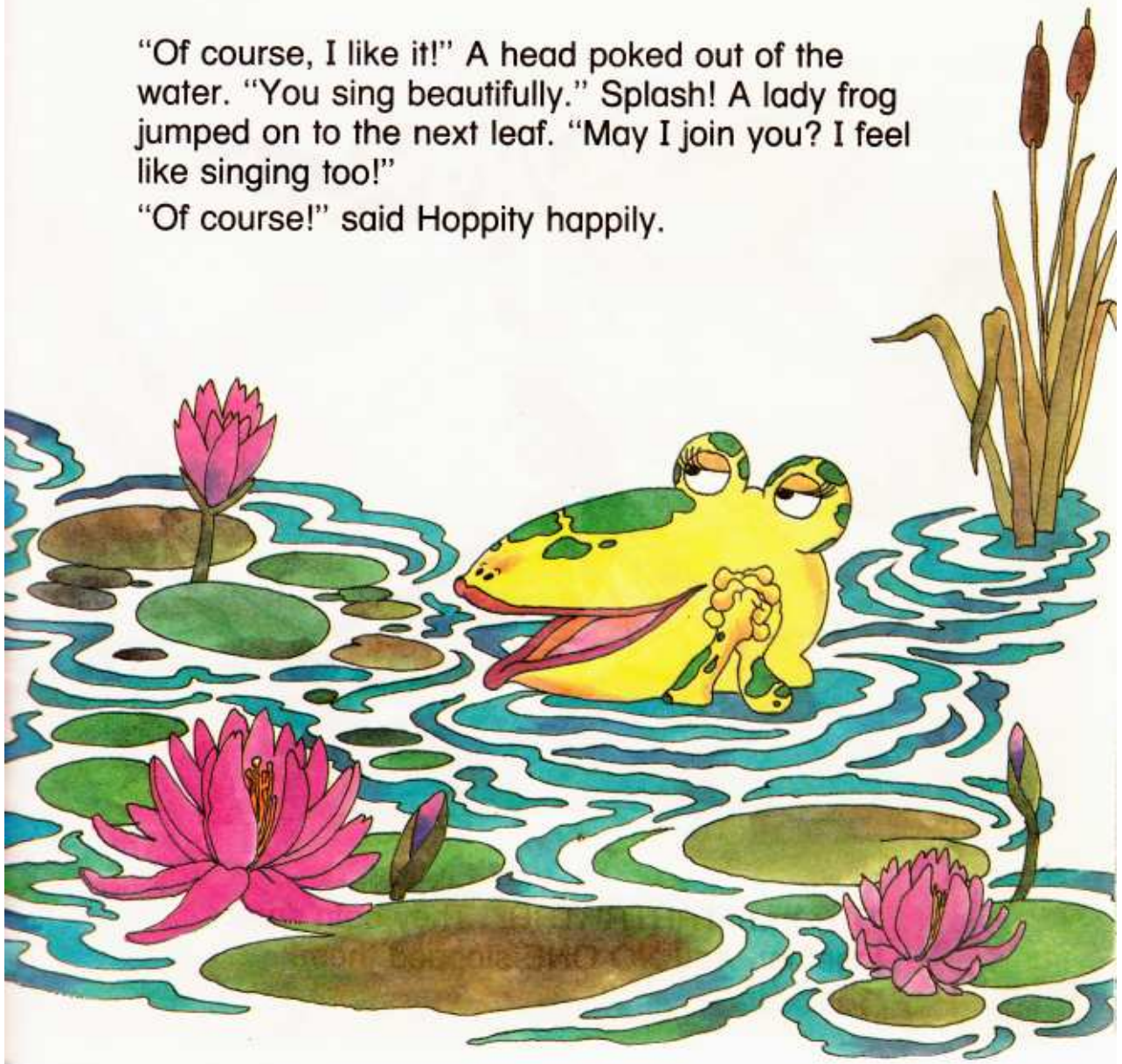




Hoppity jumped on to a leaf. "Now I'm going to sing," he said, "and I won't let ANYONE stop me!" "Trr-rrr-rrr," he began.

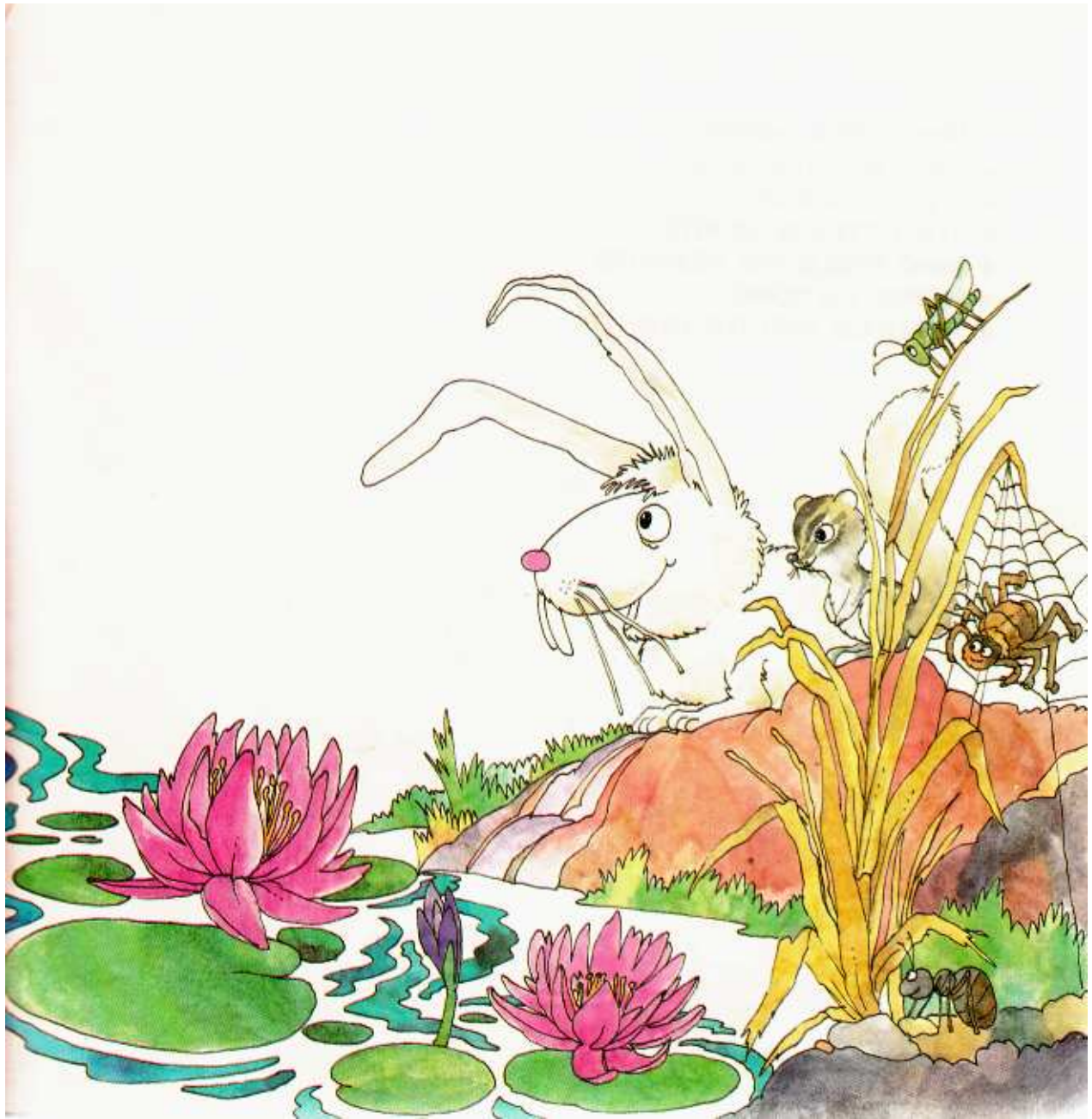
"Is that you singing?" someone asked. Hoppity looked around. But there was no one to be seen. "YES!" he shouted. "WHOEVER YOU ARE. And I'll sing whether you like it or not."

"Of course, I like it!" A head poked out of the water. "You sing beautifully." Splash! A lady frog jumped on to the next leaf. "May I join you? I feel like singing too!"
"Of course!" said Hoppity happily.





"Trrr-trrrrr-TRRTRRTRR!" They both sang together. And NO ONE stopped them!



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